



Dots ~N~ Dashes

October 2019
issue

**Valencia County
Amateur Radio
Association
P.O. Box 268
Peralta,
New Mexico
87042**

Inside this Issue

- 1** President's Column & Minutes
- 2** Events Calendar
- 2** VCARA's 2 meter freq.
- 3** Club Stuff & Shack setup
- 4** Scout Radio Merit Badge recap
- 5** VCARA Net Operators & Contacts

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hi to the Members of the Valencia County Radio Association,



For some time there has been an informal gathering of those who wanted to attend at the downtown McDonald's in Los Lunas at 9 AM. At last Saturday's gathering, President Earl KB5UEW suggested the gathering be changed to the **new Los Lunas McDonald's** on Main Street in front of Home Depot (just east of I-25). The new McD's seems to have a better arrangement and seating, less noise so conversation will be easier, and is close to the club for those that usually head that way about 10 AM after the gathering. Those there concurred with the change.

So, Saturday morning 9 AM gathering will now be held at the new Los Lunas McDonald's on west Main Street in front of Home Depot.

After the gathering folks who want to will proceed to the club

for additional discussion, mentoring, and club improvement projects. 73,

*Ralph NM5RC
VCARA Past President*

(Earl asked me to send this email due to him having a family situation that needed his attention.)

MINUTES OF VCARA'S MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

The General VCARA meeting for September 24th was called to order at 19:00 local time. Officers Earl, Ralph, Chris, Greg, Steve and Charlie were in attendance. The meeting commenced with first the Pledge of Allegiance and followed by introductions. Meeting had a total of 27 members in attendance

Officer's report:

- **President -**
 - o Conex moving plan presented. (September 28 meet at Connex at (9:00 am)
 - o New Club setup plan. Discussion about location

THE GAP AT THE BOTTOM OF THE EXTERIOR DOORS!

Maybe you noticed there was quite a gap at the bottom of the exterior doors. While the gap might not have been big enough for a mouse to squeeze through, it was big enough for big bugs (use your imagination) and windblown rain and sand to accumulate in the hall. Gene KI5BZI to the rescue. On Saturday, October 5th Gene took the initiative to install new threshold sweeps on the two front doors and continued that effort the next Saturday to install the same on the rear door. **Thank you Gene.**

October 2019 Issue

- o of various areas of operation (radio area, building section, testing, storage, etc).
- o Discussion about Saturday mornings meeting change (Stay at McDonalds)?
- o Antenna Installation plan discussion (Okay from the city. How high can the antenna be).
- o N5ZGT Brian presented an award to the club for the NM Party.
- o Club members supported the Scout Merit Badge at Hamfest (16 Scouts)
- o Update from Gil on Walmart, still working on the process to get a donation.
- o Koffee Klatch tomorrow (9/25).
- o Wednesday night net tomorrow (9/25)
- **Treasurer**
 - o May balance 5224.90
 - o June balance 5435.03
 - o July balance 5818.18
 - o August balance 5844.33 (pending debits for repeater, other misc. expenses)
 - o Please pay your dues!
- **Repeater chairman** (need new repeater chairman, Charlie resigns the position)
- **Past President** -
 - o Harvey House operation was in September 14th - 7 operators and approximately 60 contacts
- **Vice President** - Looking for presentations. Presenting today - Steve.
- **Ares Chairman**

- o Meadow Lake Repeater is now operational.
- o Donation received for repeater upgrades. Club will fund the 3rd repeater.

New Business:

- An additional quick net on the new repeater (**4th Net of the month on 145.430**) repeater will be done on 9/25.
- **Christmas Party** (December 14th) at 5:00 to 8:00 pm at Casa De Pizza. Menu items discussed.
- **Hamfest Summary** was presented. Good attendance and thanks for volunteers.
- \$39 in **raffle tickets** were sold. N5PR won the raffle
- Chris and Steve will take over as acting **repeater chairman**.

Meeting was adjourned and followed by a Presentation and Discussion on club setup and layout planning. Respectfully submitted by

*Greg Mershon, KG5OCW
VCARA Secretary*

VCARA's 2 METER OPERATING FREQUENCY

All members,

Effective immediately, the Meadow Lake 145.430MHz will be used as the primary repeater for all club business. Please note: The Wednesday night net will be held on 145.430MHz (-) 100Hz tone. You should try reaching the

Events Calendar

**Wed, Oct 16, 2019 8pm
VCARA Net 145.430 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.**

**Thu, Oct 17, 2019, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.**

**Sat, Oct 19, 2019, 8am-2pm
Socorro Hamfest @ NM
Fire Academy, 600 Aspen**

**Sat, Oct 19, 2019, 9am-10
Breakfast Club Meets at
McDonalds, Los Lunas**



**Tues, Oct 22, 2019, 7pm
VCARA Mtg @ clubhouse
700 Camelot Blvd SW, LL
Members & guests welcome**

**Wed, Oct 23, 2019, 1:30pm
Koffee Klatch at Denny's
Restaurant, Los Lunas, NM**

**Wed, Oct 23, 2019 8pm
VCARA Net 145.430 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.**

**Thu, Oct 24, 2019, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.**

**Sat, Oct 26, 2019, 9am-10
Breakfast Club Meets at
McDonalds, Los Lunas**

repeater before next Wednesday to confirm your radio settings.

The 146.700MHz repeater is still operational but for the time being will be for backup use, and will be tested on the 4th Wednesday Night net monthly. 73,

*Charlie, NM5CL
VCARA Repeater Chair*

CALENDAR – Continued

Wed, Oct 30, 2019 8pm
VCARA Net 145.430 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Thu, Oct 31, 2019, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, Nov 2, 2019, 9am-10
Breakfast Club Meets at
McDonalds, Los Lunas

Wed, Nov 6, 2019, 1:30pm
Koffee Klatch at Denny's
Restaurant, Los Lunas,NM

Wed, Nov 6, 2019 8pm
VCARA Net 145.430 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Thu, Nov 7, 2019, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, Nov 9, 2019, 9am-10
Breakfast Club Meets at
McDonalds, Los Lunas
VE Testing at clubhouse 10am
For info email kc5our@arrl.net.

CLUB’S STUFF IS OUT OF THE CONEX & INTO THE CLUB HOUSE

Earlier this year when we were notified the building where our Club had space in Rio Communities was sold, we were only given a few days to get all our stuff out, and the antennas and tower down. Club members responded in force and all this stuff was packed into a rented CONEX (i.e., a steel overseas shipping container) which was then stored at W5CSG’s home in Bosque Farms. Now we have a new KC5OUR shack and meeting space, the time arrived to get our stuff moved to the Shack.

On Saturday, September 28th, a bunch of club members gathered with pickups and a trailer to move the stuff to the Shack.

Thanks to the planning at our September 24th meeting and the deliberate efforts of the moving crew, everything was moved and logically stored at the Shack.

Fortunately, the Church agreed to let us temporarily store the tower sections and large antenna sections in the other room of the building where our Shack is located with the understanding we would soon be erecting the antennas.

In reports of this type about club activities, pictures of the activity and a list of the participating club members is usually included Newsletter reports.



Unfortunately, everyone was so busy that photos were not taken and a complete list of participants was not kept. So, rather than present a remembered list which would miss some of the helpers, the list is being forgone. Be sure and come to our October 22nd meeting and see how nicely the stored stuff has been located so we can still have our meeting and other activities until the club set-up can be completed & Bernalillo.

*Ralph Clark, NM5RC
VCARA Past President*

MAJOR STEP TAKEN IN GETTING KC5OUR SHACK SET-UP

On Saturday, October 5th, President (Earl KB5UEW) cornered those at our McDonald’s breakfast gathering to discuss how the radio operating stations and associated shelves should be constructed, and how the radios and coaxes should be arranged. The discussion was continued at the club house and the following decisions were made:

October 2019 Issue

The three operating stations will be placed along the 18-ft west wall of the Shack. Three of our 6-ft long tables would be used as the basic unit of the three operating positions. An 18-ft X 16-inch shelf will be placed above the tables for power supplies, speakers and other equipment. The shelf will be high enough so computers and monitors will fit under it. Some shelves from the old shack will be used and some of the old door table tops will be cut into new shelves.

Shorter easily movable intermediate height shelves will be made for two of the operating stations for flexible arrangement of additional equipment. A custom coax cable window pass through panel was discussed and Ty W5WY volunteered to make it.

Two additional electrical circuits will be extended from the room's electrical panel to the operating positions to provide adequate power for the radios, computers and associated equipment, and for the HF amplifier.

Construction of the operating positions is scheduled for Saturday, October 26. More info on this will be provided at our October 22 meeting and also emailed to the members. **Please plan on participating.**

Special thanks to the following for helping with the planning effort –

in randomized order: Earl KB5UEW, Gene KI5BZI, Mary Ann NS7X, Bob K5PSG, Ralph NM5RC, Charlie NM5CL, Betty N5BEL, Van KJ7CWD, Chris W5CSG, Steve AC8PC, Ty K5WY and Al KI5CUX.

*Ralph Clark, NM5RC
VCARA Past President*

CLUB PUTS ON SUCCESSFUL SCOUT RADIO MERIT BADGE EVENT

In an effort to reach out to a younger audience, the Duke City Hamfest organizers approached our club to present a Scout Radio Merit Badge Event. The class limit of 15 Scouts and was filled within two days of the event's announcement. Under Ty's (K5WY) leadership, twenty (yes 20) club members and two non-member Hams participated in our September 21st all-day event at DCHF's three day Hamfest at the Islelta Casino. In addition to a Lead Instructor to direct the instructional discussion, each

of the eight classes had several Assistant Instructors – this arrangement allowed each Scout to individually demonstrate their mastery of the information as they 'passed-off' the Badge requirements. In addition to getting their Radio Merit Badge, we were able to give the Scouts an introduction to Amateur Radio.

Those assisting with the event in order of their appearance on the schedule were: Ralph NM5RC, Ty K5WY, Greg KG5OCW, Kevin K5ZOO, Van K5VHW, Andrew NM5AE, Jim KB5NAT, John KB5JWS, Chris KG5WVC, Steve KD5PSF, Gene KI5BXI, Sam N5FO, George KG6TC, Steve AC8PC, Chris W5CSG, Bill K7ZM, Rob K5PPN, Bob W7KD, John KB5ENN, David WD4KUY and Earl KB5UEW. Thank You.

*Ralph Clark, NM5RC
VCARA Special Events
Coordinator*



Yet another ARRL A-1 Operators Club member! Congratulations Ralph!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

DAN DAVID, KA7PUN
MARK JOHNSON, N9YEX
JOSEPH DOYLE, NO5T
PAT LIBERTELL, KA5PAT
GREG MERSHOW, KG5OCW
EARL COX, KB5UEW
TED CHRISTMAN, KC0GUD
RANDY BURSON, KE5SAW
RUSS HUNT, KD5UJR
JAY MILLER, W5WHN
PHYLLIS YBARRA, KB5SXJ
MARY YOST, N7WUJ

KC5OUR Repeater & Net Operators

Every Wednesday at 8pm

VHF repeater - 145.430 MHz

Negative 600 KHz, 100 Hz tone

UHF repeater – 442.700 MHz

Positive 5 MHz & 100 Hz tone

Oct 23 – Russ, KD5UJR

Oct 30 – Ralph, NM5RC

Oct 30 – Charlie, NM5CL
(70cm Net)

Nov 06 – Charlie, NM5CL

Nov 13 – Greg, KG5OCW

Nov 20 – Elvira, KD5UJQ

Nov 27 – John, K8JWS

If you can't run the NET when scheduled, please find a sub.

VCARA Club Contacts

Officers

President: Earl Cox, KB5UEW

kb5uew@yahoo.com

Vice President: Steve Sanborn,
AC8PC, railguy51@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Charlie Lyon,
NM5CL, nm5cl@att.net

Secretary: Greg Mershon,
KG5OCW
gregmershon2@msn.com

Past President: Ralph Clark,
NM5RC, nm5rc@msn.com

Special Events Coordinator:
Ralph Clark, NM5RC

Club email kc5our@arrl.net

Repeater Chairperson:
currently vacant

ARES Chairperson: Chris
Gillespie, W5CSG

Club Station License

Trustee: Paul Ridley, N5PR

Website: www.kc5our.com

Webmaster: Charlie Lyon,
NM5CL, nm5cl@att.net
www.facebook.com/VaCtyARA

Newsletter: Emailed about 10
days prior to meetings.

Editor: Elvira Hunt, KD5UJQ
russnvera@gmail.com

*It is not the class of license that the Amateur holds,
but the class of the Amateur that holds the license.*

Valencia County
Amateur Radio Association
P.O. Box 268
Peralta, New Mexico 87042

US POSTAGE
Required

